

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in connection with the above-identified continuation application. Please amend this continuation application in accordance with this Preliminary Amendment prior to any other actions on the merits.

In the parent application, the Examiner noted that the prior art did not disclose or suggest "a level shifter circuit which includes a first native NMOS transistor having a threshold voltage less than 0V, a second transistor device and a level shifter transistor device." (Notice of Allowability p. 2, lines 4-6 (copy attached)).

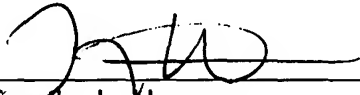
Claims 9, 16 and 20 are amended to recite "at least one native NMOS transistor device having a threshold voltage less than 0V" among other features.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter in accordance with the parent application. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the pending claims in the present case are also allowable. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any required fees not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: September 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.



Timothy L. Harney
Reg. No. 38,174
Attorney for Applicants

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000